

Date of Hearing: April 28, 2015

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

AB 1016 (Santiago) – As Amended April 13, 2015

SUBJECT: Public postsecondary education: Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act

SUMMARY: Requires the California Community Colleges (CCC) Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) to report to the Legislature, on or before March 1, 2016, the status of each community college's compliance with the Student Transfer Achievement Reform (STAR) Act's provision related to creating associate degrees for transfer (ADTs); and, requires the California State University (CSU) to submit two reports to the Legislature, as specified, on campus acceptance of transfer model curricula (TMC) by concentration. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the CCCCCO, on or before March 1, 2016, to report to the Legislature on the status of each CCCs compliance with the provisions of this article related to creating ADTs.
- 2) Requires the CSU to submit two reports to the Legislature on campus acceptance of TMC by concentration, on or before March 1, 2016, and on or before March 1, 2017, respectively.
- 3) Requires the CSU, beginning November 1, 2018, and until October 31, 2023, to annually post publicly available data on both of the following:
 - a) The extent to which the CSU admitted associate degree transfer students to the students' first choice campus and to a program that is similar to their transfer degree; and,
 - b) Associate degree transfer student outcomes, including all of the following data:
 - i) The number of transferable CCC units taken before the start of a student's first semester at the CSU,
 - ii) The number of units taken as a fully matriculated CSU student, and,
 - iii) The proportion of students who graduate from the CSU within two or three years.
- 4) Specifies that the data made publicly available, as specified, shall differentiate between the extent to which the CSU admitted ADT students to their first campus of choice and to a program that is similar to their transfer degree.
- 5) Specifies that the first annual posting of data on November 1, 2018, shall include data on students entering Fall 2014 to Fall 2016, inclusive; and, each annual posting in subsequent years shall include data only on students entering the prior school year.
- 6) Specifies that the requirements for the reports the CCCCCO shall submit, on or before March 1, 2016 will be inoperative on March 1, 2020; and, the report the CSU shall issue, on or before March 1, 2017, will be inoperative on March 1, 2021.

- 7) Allows for reimbursement to the appropriate entities should the Commission on State Mandates determine that there are mandated state costs.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the STAR Act and requires CCC to develop two-year (60 semester unit) associate degrees for transfer, which deems the student eligible for transfer into CSU. The associate degrees for transfer are required to include a minimum of 18 units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by CCC, and an approved set of general education requirements (Education Code Section 66746).
- 2) Requires the CSU to guarantee admission with junior status to any community college student who meets the specified requirements in 1) above, but provides that the student is not guaranteed admission for specific majors or campuses. However, the CSU is required to grant a student priority admission to his or her local CSU campus and to a program or major that is similar to his or her community college major or area of emphasis, as determined by the CSU campus to which the student is admitted. Students that utilize the associate transfer degree process are required to receive priority over all other community college transfer students, except for community college students who have entered into a transfer agreement between a community college and the CSU prior to the fall term of the 2012-13 academic year (EC Section 66747).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *Background.* As a way to address long standing issues and concerns about the need to ensure a clearer, transparent and more navigable transfer process between the CCC and CSU, the Legislature and Governor enacted SB 1440 (Padilla), Chapter 428, Statutes of 2010. This legislation required community colleges to create two-year 60 unit associate degrees for transfer that are fully transferable to CSU. These degrees require completion of (1) a minimum of 18 units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by each community college, and (2) an approved set of general education requirements. Students who earn such a degree are automatically eligible to transfer to the CSU system as an upper-division student in a bachelor's degree program. Though these students are not guaranteed admission to a particular CSU campus or into a particular degree program, SB 1440 gives them priority admission to a CSU program that is "similar" to the student's CCC major or area of emphasis, as determined by the CSU campus to which the student is admitted. Once admitted, SB 1440 students need only complete two additional years (an additional 60 units) of coursework to earn a bachelor's degree.

Senate Bill 440 (Padilla), Chapter 720, Statutes of 2013, requires, prior to the 2014-15 academic year, a CCC create an ADT in every major that has a TMC. Once a TMC is approved by faculty, community colleges use it to design an ADT in that particular major.

Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) Report. "Implementation Update: Reforming Transfer from CCC to CSU," which was released on February 2, 2015, found, among others, that there has been continued progress in the implementation of the STAR Act, but some of the CCC and CSU campuses are not fully on track to meeting the Legislature's targets for implementation. The LAO contends that the state's transfer reform is too recent to fully assess its effectiveness in a

comprehensive way. That said, according to the report, the CCC, appears on track to make additional progress in accepting ADTs as similar to its majors and concentrations.

As a way to ensure more students are familiar with the ADT and its direct path for CSU transfer, and to help the Legislature monitor how the segments are implementing the STAR Act, the report recommended one near-term report from the CCC and two from the CSU to track the segments' progress in creating ADTs and accepting TMC; and, require the CSU to annually provide data on certain student outcomes (including admittance to campuses and programs of choice, units taken, and graduation rates), beginning Fall 2018.

Purpose of this measure. According to the author, the STAR Act does not require the CCC to update the Legislature on ADT development or require the CSU to report on TMC acceptance or ADT Student outcomes. The author states, "AB 1016, by providing more information in the coming years, will help the Legislature track CCC/CSU progress in implementing transfer reform. Furthermore, this bill will help transfer students more easily achieve their educational and career goals."

Policy consideration. As drafted, the bill uses the term "program that is similar to their transfer degree" (see 66749.5 (c)(1) (A)); if the author's intent is for data to show how many ADT transfer students who applied to an impacted program but did not gain access, but were accepted to a similar non-impacted program, the term "program that is similar to their transfer degree" may not be necessary. *Moving forward, the author may wish to delete the reference of "program that is similar to their transfer degree".*

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Chamber of Commerce
Community College League of California

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Jeanice Warden / HIGHER ED. / (916) 319-3960